

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 TRSE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 DRC-01 (ADP) W

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R 281200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4139

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MP, PINT, ELAB

SUBJECT: SUGAR INDUSTRY STRIKE AVERTED

REF: PORT LOUIS 0936

1. PANTATION WORKERS UNION AND SUGAR INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MET AND COME TO WAGE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH WORKERS TO RECEIVED AVERAGE INCREASES OF 29.5PCT. WORK STOPPAGES ENDED IMMEDIATELY. AGREEMENT WAS WORKED OUT UNDER DIRECTION ACTING MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY, SIR HAROLD WALTER.

2. SHURMAH JAGDAMBI, PRESIDENT PWU, CALLED AT EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 27 IN CONNECTION HIS INVITATION TO ATTEND AFL/CIO CONVENTION (STATE 153003). JAGDAMBI PRAISED SIR HAROLD'S EFFORTS AS ARBITER, BUT, AVOIDING FALSE MODESTY, ALLOWED HE HAD BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR "VICTORY" HIS WORKERS. JAGDAMBI STATED HE HAD PREVAILED ON PRIME MINISTER NOT TO WAIT FOR FURTHER WAGES COUNCIL DECISION, BUT TO HAVE GOVERNMENT AND UNIONS MEET FACE-TO-FACE WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS IN EFFORT COME TO DECISION.

3. JAGDAMBI SAID THAT FRINGE BENEFITS ALSO OFFERED IN TOTAL WAGE PACKAGE BROUGHT INCREASE TO 42PCT HE HAD BEEN ASKING ALL ALONG. HE SAID HE HAD CONVINCED INDUSTRY LEADERS THAT IF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE NOT GRANTED AT THIS TIME, THIS COULD ONLY LEAD TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKERS TURNING TOWARD MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS: READ ...

COMMENT: SUGAR EMPLOYERS APPARENTLY DID NOT FIGHT TOO HARD ON THIS
WAGE ISSUE GIVEN RELIABLE ASSURANCES OF BUMPER CROP THIS YEAR.
THEIR ACTION POSSIBLY PORTENDS GENERAL PEACE ON LABOR FRONT
THROUGHOUT LENGTH OF PRESENT CANE CUTTING SEASON AND INTO NEXT
YEAR, IF OTHER ELEMENTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR ALSO COME THROUGH WITH
SIZABLE SALARY INCREASES. JAGDAMBI HIMSELF STATED (AND HE
PROBABLY SPEAKS FOR MAJORITY OF LABOR PARTY) THAT EASED LABOR
CONDITIONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO CAUSE GOVERNMENT TO LIFT STATE OF
EMERGENCY.
SULLIVAN

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